



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

#18/E
Tuta
3/29/03

Inventor: **Tam, Robert**

Examiner: **James Schultz**

Serial No: **09/331,204**

Art Unit: **1635**

Filed: **August 20, 1999**

For: **G-rich Oligo Aptamers and
Methods Of Modulating an
Immune Response**

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MAR 21 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper responds to the Final Office Action dated December 18, 2002. Please enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. An aptamer having a length of between 12 and 22 nucleic acid units, inclusive, and having a sequence which includes at least two G-rich regions selected from the group consisting of GGnG, GGGG, GnGG, nGGG and GGGn, where G is guanidine and n is any nucleotide, and wherein the aptamer reduces CD28 expression in an activated human T-cell.
17. A method of medicating an immunocompetent cell, comprising administering to the cell an aptamer according to claim 1 at a concentration effective to reduce CD28 expression.